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ALBERT S. EDWARDS.

December 15, 1839. December 20, 1915.

Albert S. Edwards, the son of Ninian Wirt Edwards, and Elizabeth Todd Edwards, was born in the historic Edwards home on South Second street, Springfield, Ill., Dec. 15, 1839. The Edwards family is one of the most distinguished families in the annals of Illinois. The grandfather of Albert S. Edwards was Governor Ninian Edwards, governor of the Territory of Illinois 1809-1818, who was upon the admission of the State in 1818 elected one of its first United States senators, and was afterwards third governor of the State of Illinois. Ninian Wirt Edwards, the father of Albert S. Edwards, was born in Kentucky in 1809, the year in which his father was appointed Territorial governor of Illinois, and while yet an infant was brought by his parents to Illinois.

He was appointed attorney general of Illinois in 1834 but resigned in 1835 and removed to Springfield. He was elected to the lower house of the General Assembly in 1836 and re-elected in 1838. During this term he was influential in the efforts to remove the State capital from Vandalia to Springfield, he being one of the celebrated "Long Nine", members of the General Assembly given that title on account of their unusual height, every one of them being more than six feet tall. Mr. Lincoln was one of the number.

Mr. Edwards was elected to the State Senate two terms, 1844 and 1848. He was a member of the Convention of 1847, which framed the State Constitution of 1848. Mr. Edwards was appointed in 1854 by Governor Matteson, State superintendent of public instruction. This office he held until 1857. Previous to this the secretary of State had been *ex-officio* superintendent of public instruction.

During the Civil War Mr. Edwards was captain commissary of subsistence, having been appointed by Mr. Lincoln. Eliza-

beth Todd, the wife of Ninian Wirt Edwards, was the daughter of Robert S. Todd of Lexington, Kentucky. Her sister Mary was the wife of Abraham Lincoln.

It was as a visitor to the Edwards home that Mary Todd met Abraham Lincoln and in that same home she was married to him November 4, 1842.

Here to this hospitable home she came back, a broken and sorrowing widow, and here, under this same roof, she died, July 16, 1882.

Albert S. Edwards was a child of three years when Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln were married, and he was always a favorite with them both. He had the best possible educational advantages of the day, and had a very quick and retentive mind. He was a lover of books and a constant reader. In the later years of his life he was especially interested in history. During the Civil War he was connected with the commissary department and was stationed at Chicago and at Cairo. At the close of the war he returned to Springfield and became connected with the printing and binding firm of the H. W. Rokker Company. He continued in this relation until the business was sold to the Jefferson Company.

In 1897 he was appointed custodian of the Lincoln home, which position he filled until his death. Albert S. Edwards and his wife as custodians of the Lincoln home, have received thousands of visitors from all parts of the world. The home is filled with priceless historical articles which had been the property of the Edwards and Lincoln families.

Mr. Edwards was a man of singularly lovable disposition. His kindness of heart and his gentleness were well known to all with whom he came in contact. He was a gentleman of the oldest and best school—that of nature. Kindliness and courtesy were as natural to him as to breathe.

In 1863 Mr. Edwards was married to Miss Josephine E. Remann, who was born in Vandalia, Illinois, but whose parents removed to Springfield when she was a small child. Mrs. Edwards and three children survive him. The children are Ninian Wirt Edwards, Miss Georgia H. Edwards and Mrs. Mary Edwards Brown, all of Springfield. Mr. Edwards also left one grandson, Remann A. Brown, of Cleveland, Ohio.

Death came suddenly to Mr. Edwards, though he had for some time been in failing health. On December 20, 1915, at 7:00 o'clock in the morning he was stricken with a heart attack and he passed away within a half hour.

Many friends and relatives besides his immediate family will mourn the passing away of Albert S. Edwards. Letters and testimonials came to his family from all parts of the country, expressing regret at his death and in appreciation of his courtesy and efficiency as custodian of the Lincoln home.

Mr. Edwards was a member of the Central Baptist Church of Springfield and a member of the Illinois State Historical Society.

He was buried December 22, 1915, in the Edwards family lot in Oak Ridge Cemetery. All who knew him will feel that the world is poorer for his leaving it and his gracious courtesy and helpful kindness will not soon be forgotten.